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STROBE TALBOTT
BUREAU CHIEF

October 27, 1987

The Hon. William Webster
Director of Central Intelligence
CIA

Dear Judge Webster:

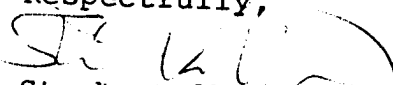
STAT Just a note to let you know how grateful my colleagues
and I are to you and Bill Baker for the prompt and extremely
helpful follow-up on our breakfast. Bill Baker's associate
[redacted] arranged a background interview today for our
Gorbachevologists to meet with your Gorbachevologists. Two
of Time's Soviet-affairs experts, David Aikman of this bureau
and John Kohan from Bonn, joined me in a session with [redacted]
STAT [redacted] It was exceptionally
useful to us in preparing what we hope will be a major
contribution to our readers' understanding of Gorbachev
later in the year.

STAT Let me reiterate a sentiment I expressed briefly to
Messrs. [redacted] I am most grateful
to you for making it possible to resume this kind of contact
between our profession and members of the one over which you
now preside. Some years ago, when I was working as a foreign
correspondent and as a foreign-affairs specialist here in
Washington, this sort of backgrounder was possible. I'm very
pleased that it is possible once again. I hope that when you
and your colleagues see the result of our efforts, you will
feel that your time was not wasted and your confidence was
not misplaced.

In the same spirit, thank you for receiving Henry
Muller, Bruce van Voorst, Jay Peterzell and me. They were
impressed and enlightened on a number of points.

I trust our paths will continue to cross.

Respectfully,


Strobe Talbott